

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 07-55

**Distribution:** Pharmacies, Practitioners (Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses, Medical Clinics, Oral Surgeons, Podiatrists, FQHCs/RHCs/THCs), Dentists, Vision, Hospitals, Hospice, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans, Medicaid Health Plans, Community Mental Health Services Program Clinics and Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies

**Issued:** October 1, 2007

**Subject:** Refill Restriction for Narcotic Analgesics

**Effective:** November 1, 2007

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Maternity Outpatient Medical Services, Adult Benefits Waiver, Plan First!, and Children's Special Health Care Services

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of a change to the refill restriction for narcotic analgesics.

### **Refill Restriction for Narcotic Analgesics for Fee-for-Service (FFS) Beneficiaries**

The current refill tolerance allows a FFS beneficiary (except an individual enrolled in the Beneficiary Monitoring Program) to obtain a refill prescription for a narcotic analgesic when seventy-five (75%) of the medication has been consumed.

Effective November 1, 2007, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will increase the refill tolerance for narcotic analgesics from twenty-five percent (25%) to ten percent (10%) for FFS beneficiaries (except beneficiaries enrolled in hospice and the Beneficiary Monitoring Program). Under the new refill tolerance, a FFS beneficiary cannot obtain a new prescription or refill of an existing narcotic analgesic, whether the drug is prescribed by the same or different healthcare provider, or for a different drug in the same class, until 90% of the drug quantity limit has been consumed in compliance with the prescribed dose, amount, frequency and time intervals established by the MDCH.

### **Hospice Beneficiaries**

A FFS beneficiary enrolled in hospice with a level of care (LOC) 16 is exempt from the new refill tolerance. A FFS beneficiary with a LOC 16 can continue to obtain a refill prescription for a narcotic analgesic when 75% of the medication has been consumed.

### **Beneficiary Monitoring Program (BMP)**

The current refill tolerance for narcotic analgesics and other drug categories that are part of the BMP as outlined in the Beneficiary Chapter of the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual still apply.

## **MDCH PBM Edit**

The MDCH Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) will reject the claim with Drug Utilization Review (DUR) early refill NCPDP Reject Error Code 88, if the refill tolerance for a narcotic analgesic is more than 10%. Pharmacies may contact the MDCH PBM Technical Call Center to request an override to the NCPDP Reject Error Code 88 for instances where an early refill is warranted. The refill restriction for narcotic analgesics does not apply if payment from the other insurance is reported on the claim. The regular drug quantity limits and other MDCH coverage guidelines still apply.

## **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

## **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

## **Approved**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Reinhart, Director  
Medical Services Administration